

ATTIRE

DRAWER

3A

APPEARANCE

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Abraham Lincoln's Appearance

Attire

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

File

And Hannibal Hamlin.
(Columbus, Ohio, 1860)

26 LIFE AND SPEECHES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

his wits sharpened by traffic; such, no doubt, was Denton Offutt, who had seen

—"Cities of men,
And manners, climates, councils, governments,"

and such was one of Lincoln's earliest friends. He quickly discovered the sterling qualities of honesty and fidelity, and the higher qualities of intellect which lay hid under the young Kentuckian's awkward exterior, and he at once took Lincoln into his employment. He was now about sending another flat-boat to New Orleans, and he engaged Lincoln, and the husband of one of Lincoln's step-sisters, together with their comrade, John Hanks,* to take charge of his craft for the voyage from Beardstown, in Illinois, to the Crescent City.

In this winter of 1830-31, a deep snow, long remembered in Illinois, covered the whole land for many weeks, and did not disappear until the first of March, when the waters of the thaw inundated the country. Overland travel from Macon county to Beardstown was rendered impossible; Lincoln, and his relative, therefore, took a canoe and descended the Sangamon river to Springfield, where they found Offutt. He had not succeeded in getting a flat-boat at Beardstown, as he expected; but with innumerable flat-boats growing up in their primal element of timber about him, he was not the man to be baffled by the trifling consideration that he had no flat-boat built. He offered to Lincoln and each of his

* Now a well known railroad man in Illinois.

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friends, twelve dollars a month for the time they should be occupied in getting out lumber, and making the boat. The offer was accepted. The ax did its work; the planks were sawed with a whip-saw; Denton's ark was put together, and the trip to New Orleans triumphantly and profitably made.

On his return to Illinois, Lincoln found that his father had (in pursuance of a previous intention) removed from Macon, and was now living in Coles county. His relative rejoined his family there; but New Salem, on the Sangamon river, became the home of Lincoln, whose "location" there was accidental rather than otherwise. He was descending the river with another flat-boat for Offutt, and near New Salem grounded on a dam. An old friend and ardent admirer, who made his acquaintance on this occasion, says that Lincoln was standing in the water on the dam, when he first caught sight of him, devoting all his energies to the release of the boat. His dress at this time consisted of a pair of blue jeans trousers indefinitely rolled up, a cotton shirt, striped white and blue, (of the sort known in song and tradition as *hickory*) and a buckeye-chip hat for which a demand of twelve and a half cents would have been exorbitant.

The future president failed to dislodge his boat; though he did adopt the ingenious expedient of lightening it by boring a hole in the end that hung over the dam and letting out the water—an incident which Mr. Douglas humorously turned to account in one of his speeches. The boat stuck there stubborn, immovable.

LINCOLN IN THE WHITE HOUSE

His Simplicity of Dress and Speech.

J. G. Nicolay in the October Century.

There, as in his father's cabin, or New Salem, or Vardalla, or Springfield, the man Lincoln never gave a fraction of a thought or a moment of care to any question of dress. He followed the ordinary fashion and wore what the tailor, hatter, and boot-maker made for him. And so clad, the humblest citizen stood in his presence without awe and the highest dignitaries with perfect respect. The world has yet to learn that General Scott, or Lord Lyons, or Bishop Simpson, or Prince Napoleon, or Archbishop Hughes, or Comte de Paris, or Chief Justice Taney ever felt humiliated by the dress or want of dignity of President Lincoln in state ceremonial or private audience. The eyes of these men were not upon the tailor's suit of broadcloth, but upon the president and the man, and in such a scrutiny Lincoln out-ranked any mortal who ever questioned him eye to eye in his long and strange career from New Salem to the Blue Room of the White House. 10-11-51

As with his dress, so with his manner. Tempered and modified by the gravity of added years, and an ever-widening experience among varied social classes and conditions in many parts of the Union, it nevertheless retained to the last a strong impress of the essential characteristics of the frontier—simplicity, directness and sincere heartiness. He never learned and never used meaningless or misleading conventional phrases. He would say, "I am glad to see you." He would never say, "I am charmed to see you." He always greeted his visitors with a cordial shake of the hand and a winning look or smile, unless, as very rarely happened, his mind was weighed down with a preoccupation of overwhelming care and suspense. He always listened with patience, even when the request of his petitioner might be frivolous or foolish. That he was fond of wit and jest and laughter the world already knows. He gave others courtesy, kindness and consideration to the last degree, and never by word or look assumed that he demanded them for himself.

Lincoln and Lewis.

How times have changed! We read in the Washington dispatches that when the Hon. Jim Ham Lewis took the oath of office as United States senator from Illinois he "was clad in a tight-fitting dark gray cutaway suit, dark puff tie, white vest, gray gloves and a silk hat and carried a silver tipped cane, with a light lavender handkerchief peeping from the pocket of his coat." 1913

All of which reminds us of the time when Carl Schurz first saw Abraham Lincoln. The occasion was one of the big political rallies for which Illinois was noted in those days. Lincoln and Schurz were both billed to speak. Schurz was at a hotel and awaiting a marching procession which was to escort the speakers to the platform in a nearby grove. Lincoln joined the marching procession before the hotel where Schurz was stopping was reached.

Carl Schurz was the last man in the world to look upon clothes as an index to a man's worth, but he admits in his "Memoirs" that when he beheld Abraham Lincoln upon that occasion, with not a single garment fitting his ungainly frame, with a hat that was out of date and everything else to correspond, "his heart sank within him" and he asked himself if it were possible that this man was destined for great leadership among the American people.

No one of sense will say that James Hamilton Lewis should select Abraham Lincoln as a sartorial model. It is, however, a matter for interesting speculation as to how the two men may compare in the records of statesmanship when the later history of the state comes to be written.—Des Moines Capital.

WOULDN'T WEAR A DIAMOND.

President Lincoln Became the Owner
of One, But Kept It Hidden
from View. 1901

Col. W. N. Cave, of Barnwell, S. C., is in possession of a unique relic in the shape of a diamond pin which was at one time the property of Abraham Lincoln and which is the only piece of jewelry of the kind that President Lincoln ever wore, says the Atlanta Constitution. The pin is of the old-fashioned style of cluster brooches, with a clasp at the back for the purpose of securing it to the frilled shirt fronts worn by the gentlemen 50 years ago. The center diamond is a large, particularly white one, and it is surrounded by a number of small brilliants.

The pin has a strange history. Some years before the war and prior to the time that Abraham Lincoln was beginning to loom up as a presidential possibility, while practicing law in Illinois, he met a young dandy from New York state whose sporting proclivities had caused him to run short of funds. The young fellow went to Lincoln for assistance and left with him as security for a loan a handsome diamond pin. For some reason he never returned to redeem the pledge and from that day Lincoln did not again see him.

Lincoln was naturally a man of quiet taste in matters of dress, and seldom wore jewelry of any kind. However, his accidental possession of a fine ornament proved a temporary temptation to adorn himself. One day James Moyers, a stock dealer of Kentucky, and a close personal friend of Mr. Lincoln, who had known him intimately from childhood, went to Springfield on a visit. As soon as he saw Lincoln the pin attracted his attention.

"Well, who'd 'a' thought that Abe Lincoln would be strutting around the street with a diamond pin in his shirt front!" exclaimed Moyers in mock surprise. Lincoln looked vaguely abashed and tried to explain. The explanation ended by his taking the pin from his shirt and pinning it on Moyer's, insisting as he did so that he did not want it, and was only too anxious to get rid of it. Moyers kept the ornament for some time, and finally gave it to a friend, James Drummond. Drummond was captured during the war by the federals and died at Fort Monroe. In 1866 a sale of his property and personal effects took place at Barnwell, S. C. Among the latter was the pin that had belonged to Lincoln. Col. Cave bought it for a small sum. He knew its history and prizes the relic highly. Some years ago Col. Cave was offered \$5,000 for the pin, but refused to part with it.

LINCOLN'S CARELESSNESS.

His Hat His Favorite Receptacle For Letters and Papers.

When Lincoln was postmaster of New Salem he used to tuck the letters inside his hat and deliver them whenever he happened to meet the persons to whom they were addressed. As this is a fair example of his business system, it may readily be imagined that the office of Stuart & Lincoln was not a model establishment, where there was a place for everything and everything in its place. And it was not. Indeed, as a managing clerk the junior partner would have been a hopeless failure, and as an attorney, in the technical sense of the term, he would never have distinguished himself. He disliked everything connected with the drudgery of legal routine, hated drawing the declarations and pleas, despised the artificialities and refinements which were even then beginning to creep into the pleading, and disregarded forms whenever it was possible to do so.

1906

There was nothing mechanical, precise or methodical about the man, and in all those housewifely virtues which characterized the careful, orderly, exact solicitor he was utterly deficient. He never knew where his papers were, and apparently the only attempt he ever made to better the disorder was to write on one of his bundles of papers which littered his desk, "When you can't find it anywhere else, look in this." But that was long after the firm of Stuart & Lincoln had dissolved, and even then we find him explaining to a correspondent that he had placed his letter inside an old hat and had thus neglected answering it, which shows he had not wholly outgrown the habit of his postoffice days. Indeed, his hat continued to be his favorite receptacle for papers as long as he lived, and he never acquired any sense of order.—Frederick Trevor Hill in Century.

See Brown, p 37
particular in hat

See Brown, p 72
and part of the
hat brought down

ONLY A LINCOLN CAN AFFORD TO NEGLECT APPEARANCES, DECLARES HEBE

IT IS highly fitting that the nation shall celebrate the birthday of one of its greatest commoners. Not a single man or woman, it is safe to say, looks upon the pictures and busts of Lincoln which are everywhere displayed on this occasion, with anything less than reverential admiration.

Here was one man who did right as he saw it, let the consequences be what they may. Not many men lived just like him, in his time, nor to-day are such men any too frequent.

The rugged face of Lincoln tells a story of stress and strain. It breathes somewhat of melancholy, though they say of him that he was a real humorist. Some historians declare that Lincoln said, "I have always been a fatalist. What is to be will be or rather, as Hamlet says, "There's a divinity that shapes our ends,

Rough hew them how we will."

Yet shoulder to shoulder with this utterance one remembers the words of Novalis when he says that "Character is fate." Lincoln's character did indeed cause his future to be predetermined long before the event, for his character was set immutably toward the leading of right.

Inseparable with the thought of Lincoln is the memory of his mother, Nancy Hanks, that "angel mother" as he called her, who bequeathed to her neglected half-starved little lad, such a rich dower of faith in good, of persistence and determination. Who can declare that the great love which Lincoln had for his mother had no small influence in his trend of thought toward anti-slavery? It is related of him on one occasion as he journeyed on a flatboat to New Orleans that he happened to be at a place where a young slave woman was being sold at auction. She was exhibited and inspected by the prospective customers just as if she were a piece of horseflesh. Lincoln saw this and is said to have uttered at that time these memorable words: "If I ever get a chance to hit this thing, I'll hit it hard."

To "hit it hard" was indeed his characteristic in whatever he undertook.

Such a characteristic is not usually found with anything else than a personality or rather individuality which is unusual. When the time came Lincoln did hit slavery and hit it hard, and doubtless would have acted just the same could he have foreseen the fate that was meted out to him for his action.

LINCOLN'S birthday is a day which should be a favorite with all men. Lincoln loved and revered woman-kind, but he was a man's man, as the saying runs.

In his day it was a time of stress and strain yet men somehow looked to him, leaned on him. He is pictured by one writer as being a tall, large-featured, shabbily dressed man of uncouth appearance, in much-kneed, ill-fitting trousers, yet this same man, as described, was then President. He was, as Emerson expressed it, called to the helm in a tornado, but he grasped it firmly and unflinching held the ship to her course. There were fops then and dandies, just as to-day, but the slouchy uncouth figure was beautiful in its own way, the rugged face glorious from that light which shined from within.

Such beauty is the true beauty, as everyone knows. The wonder arises, if Lincoln lived to-day, when appearances seem to count for ninety-five per cent. out of the hundred, would he have been just as uncaring and defiant of outward looks, as he was then? Perhaps so, but it might be that a Lincoln could only live then, in that environment which called him into existence and that now he would have grown up and developed in a different way. Certainly the men of to-day, all men, know that it "does not do" to neglect the appearance, for many reasons and not all of them light ones.

The men of to-day who will succeed cannot take any chances in being regarded as slouchy or slovenly, careless and unkempt either in clothing or facial appearance.

"Other times, other manners" this must be the explanation of much that we wonder at now, as we read of Lincoln and his neglect of carefulness in attire. Those times have gone by and at this date, a man is not thought less of a man because he is well-groomed and clean, nor thought more of a man because he is untidy and displeasing in attire and personal care. It has indeed become a proverb that a man

does not age so fast as a woman, may the reason not be found in the fact that the average man of to-day makes the proper care of his face and his person just as much of a business as he does everything else he undertakes? He bathes and he exercises, he has his hair and nails regularly attended to, he has facial and often body massages at regular intervals, he indeed sees to it that he is as spruce, as spick and span as the proverbial new penny, day after day, week in and week out.

CAN such a regularity of method be found in the average woman? Not as a general rule. She beautifies spasmodically, she works too hard, rests after a feverish fashion, eats too much or too little, sleeps the same way, attends to her complexion or neglects it, as the fancy takes her. Such methods never attain the same results as the steady, regular business-like way of doing observed by the men.

To look well, to appear to the best advantage, this is good business sense for a man, as all successful men know. The unsuccessful ones do not always realize just how much harm has been done them by uncared-for, tobacco-stained teeth, tobacco-heavy breath, dull eyes, a rough skin, hair which is lanky and powdery. The unsuccessful man wonders dully why he was passed over and his neighbor chosen, when opportunity looked him over. He could "not see himself as others saw him" or he would have known. Carelessness in dress hints of carelessness in method, hints of lack of ambition and energy, betrays a somewhat lackadaisical habit of mind, which is not just the right stuff that is called upon when work lies ahead. It is not so much the unpleasing appearance as it is the suspicion of the thought which is responsible for that appearance that is the factor which decided against the one who harbors it.

In this connection one looks back to the great character of Abraham Lincoln, who was so great he could rise above such things as appearance. But until all are of that moral height and stature, they will do well to omit none of those smaller details, which go to make up the well-appearing whole.

2-17-15

LINCOLN'S FIRST GARMENT WAS OF YELLOW FLANNEL

State Journal
2/12/1922
Mrs. E. L. Hitchcock, 500 South

Eighth street, a granddaughter of Bowling Green of Old Salem, one of the well-known pioneers of central Illinois, prizes highly a newspaper clipping given her by her mother in which is given an interesting account of the marriage of Lincoln's parents and the birth of Abraham Lincoln. The martyred president first read law at the home of Bowling Green, and the old Green homestead has been prominently mentioned in many books of Lincoln lore.

Mrs. Hitchcock's mother, Mrs. W. C. Green, lived for twelve years in the old homestead, of which now only a few logs are left. A piece of wood from the old-time house was presented by Mrs. E. L. Hitchcock to Gen. John J. Pershing upon the occasion of his visit to Springfield about two years ago. She has several pieces of solid walnut wood taken from the home of her ancestors. The newspaper clipping in Mrs. Hitchcock's possession reads:

"It was always the proud boast of the Rev. Edward Head, a Methodist minister, and likewise a carpenter, that he performed the ceremony that united Abraham Lincoln's parents in marriage. In telling of the bridal couple and the feast, he said:

"Nancy Hanks was a fresh-looking girl, I should say past 20. Tom was a respectable mechanic who could take his choice; and she was to be treated with respect. I was at the infare given by John H. Parrott, her guardian—and it was only girls with money who had guardians appointed by the court. Our table was of puncheons cut from the solid logs and they were the cabin's floor next day. We had bear meat, venison, wild turkey, ducks' eggs, wild and tame—so common that you could buy them at two bits a bushel—maple sugar strung on a string, to bite off for coffee or whisky; syrup in big gourds, peach and honey; a sheep that the two families barbecued whole over coals of wood burned in a pit and covered with green boughs to keep in the juices; and a race for the whisky bottle."

"Another guest at the wedding was Christopher Columbus Graham, who lived to be more than 100 years old. In explaining his presence at the festivities, Graham said:

"You see I was out hunting roots for medicines and I just went to the wedding to get a good supper—and I got it. Tom Lincoln was a carpenter and a good one for those days, when a cabin was built mostly with an ax. It didn't have a nail or a bolt or a hinge in it, only leathers and pins to the door. There wasn't any glass either, except what you found in bottles or watches or spectacles, if you owned them. But Tom Lincoln had the best set of tools in the whole county."

"Tom and Nancy lived on a farm about two miles from us when Abe was born," said Dennis Hanks, Lincoln's cousin and playmate. "I recall Tom coming over to our house one cold morning in February and saying:

"Nancy's got a baby boy."

"Mother got flustered and hurried up her work to go over and look after the little fellow, but I didn't have nothing to wait for, so I cut and run the whole two miles to see my new cousin. You bet I was tickled to death. Babies wasn't as common as blackberries in the woods of Kentucky. Mother came over and washed him and put a yellow flannel petticoat on him and cooked some dried berries and wild honey for Nancy and slicked things up and went home. And that's all the nursing either of them got.

"I rolled up and slept in a bearskin that night by the fireplace so I could see the little fellow when he cried and Tom had to get up and tend to him. Nancy let me hold him pretty soon.

"Polks often ask me if Abe was a good-looking baby. Well, now, he looked just like any other baby at first—like red cherry pulp squeezed dry. And he didn't improve as he grew older. Abe never was much for looks. I recollect how Tom joked about Abe's long legs when he was toddling about the cabin. He grew out of his clothes faster than Nancy could make them.

"But he was mighty good company—solemn as a papoose, but interested in everything. And he always did have fits of cutting up. I've seen him when he was a little fellow setting on a stool staring at a visitor. All of a sudden he'd laugh fit to kill. But if he told us what he was laughing at half the time we couldn't see the joke.

"After he could walk, Abe never gave Nancy any trouble, except to keep him in clothes. Most of the time we went barefoot. Did you ever wear a wet buckskin glove? Well, moccasins were no protection against the wet. For snow, birch bark with hickory bark soles beat buckskin all hollow. Abe and me got pretty handy contriving things that way. And Abe, about as soon as he was weaned, was right out in the woods, fishing in the creek, setting traps for rabbits and muskrats, going on coon hunts with Tom and me and the dogs, following up bees to find the bee trees and dropping corn for his pappy. It was a mighty interesting life for a boy but there was a good many chances that he wouldn't live to grow up."

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Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

LINCOLN'S APPAREL, HEAD TO FOOT

The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation is gathering information about wearing apparel associated with Lincoln. The list that follows is but a sample of an interesting compilation of relics and curios which have been treasured because of their connection with the emancipator.

There has been no attempt in this compilation to separate the purely traditional items from those which have come down well authenticated but there has been a careful check to see that the same item has not been listed twice.

Hats

Hat worn by Lincoln now in the Olroyd collection. It is a good 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ in size. In addition to a heavy black band around it there is another tiny band with a dainty buckle. This is the hat supposed to have been used as a football the night of Lincoln's election to the presidency.

Hat worn by Lincoln now in the possession of the Chicago Historical Society museum.

Beveridge said: "This hat is six and seven-eighths or by stretching it, seven."

Hat worn by Lincoln on the night of his assassination.

These hats were of the stovepipe variety so often worn by Lincoln and which proved to be almost indispensable to him. In the high crowns were carried at various times, according to his occupation, surveyor's notes, letters, dispatches, newspaper clippings, lawyer's briefs and state papers of all sorts.

Hair

Lock of hair taken from Lincoln's head just after his death. It was given originally to Dr. Chas. L. Taft, an attending surgeon at the death bed, and was acquired from the doctor's son by William H. Lambert, a collector of Lincolniana, from whose estate it was purchased by the present owner.

Coats

Coat worn by Lincoln on the night of his assassination is in the possession of the Chicago Historical Society.

It was presented by Frank G. Logan, who obtained it in 1789 from Thomas F. Pendel, a doorkeeper at the White House during the Civil War. Charles Forbes, another veteran attache of the Executive Mansion also swore to the genuineness of the garment.

Dress coat worn by Lincoln.

Suits

A whole suit of clothes supposed to include the original coat worn by Lincoln on the night of his assassination. This was sold in Philadelphia in 1924 and aroused a furor on the part of those who claim the coat in the Chicago Historical Society is the original.

Overcoat

Overcoat, badly torn and wrinkled, was also sold with the suit in Philadelphia. On the dark silk lining is the inscription "One Country, one destiny."

Stock

A badly faded silk stock was with the suit sold in Philadelphia.

Cuff Buttons

Cuff buttons worn by Lincoln in possession of a San Francisco man.

Gloves

Gloves worn by Lincoln on the night of his assassination.

Gloves worn by Lincoln on the night of his assassination were exhibited in 1929 by a New York church. The Pastor of this church said the articles had belonged at one time to Captain Benjamin Richardson, a friend of Lincoln, and were loaned by a granddaughter of the captain.

Handkerchief

Sheer linen, blood stained handkerchief Lincoln carried on the night of his assassination. In one corner is the name A. Lincoln worked in tiny letters of red. This was given by Mrs. Lincoln to a member of the Department of Agriculture who was in addition a close friend of her husband. It is now in the possession of his descendants.

Ring

Ring presented by Lincoln to Joseph Medill, then editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune, and given by him to George Armstrong, a member of the Lincoln guard of honor. It was presented to the Illinois State Historic Library by the husband of a niece of Armstrong.

Watch

Watch presented to Lincoln and on his death given to the widow of the giver. A great many disputes have arisen over the ownership but it is now in the possession of a son of the maker.

Watch carried by Lincoln during the Civil War which tells the date as well as the time and is about twice the size of a modern watch is now in the possession of a family in Denmark. It was made by an American whose heirs presented it to Lincoln.

Canes

Gold headed cane given Lincoln in 1851 by John A. McClelland and later presented by Mrs. Lincoln to a Springfield minister who in turn bequeathed it to a member of the British House of Commons in accordance with Lincoln's wishes.

A straight black ebony cane curiously carved and inlaid carried by Lin-

coln on the night of his assassination. Just below the handle behind thick glass is "Abe Lincoln" then a carved heart and "rail splitter." Next are nine dots representing the nine states from which slavery was abolished. An affidavit accompanying the cane relates that a janitor found it in the theatre box after the shooting and gave it to Dr. von Dolcke of Washington.

Cane made from wood of Henry Clay home and carried by Lincoln on his journey to the White House and during the debates with Douglas.

Cane carried by Lincoln in the Inaugural procession.

Cane Lincoln made for his stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, in 1830 which was presented by one of her relatives to the Chicago Historical Society.

Shawl

Shawl worn by Lincoln both at Springfield and Washington. This was his favorite wrap and what he wore when visiting the telegraph office and hospitals at night during the Civil War. This with other personal articles were obtained from Charles Forbes, Lincoln's confidential attendant in 1892, and now in the museum of the Chicago Historical Society.

Umbrella

Umbrella Lincoln left in Richmond in January, 1865, on his visit there directly after the close of the war.

Frame of the umbrella carried by Lincoln in the Inaugural Procession.

Umbrella carried by Lincoln now in the possession of the Chicago Historical museum.

Satchel

Valise or satchel carried by Lincoln during the debates with Douglas. It is of unusual weight consisting of a heavy wooden box covered with leather and reinforced by iron girders that are securely fastened by brass studded tacks. This was given by Lincoln personally just before he left for Washington to one of his Springfield neighbors as a token of friendship. In it were documents and papers which Lincoln thought would interest his friend. The son of this man still owns it and has loaned it to the Ferry Museum.

Carpet Bag

Carpet bag Lincoln carried when traveling.

Nightgown

Nightgown Lincoln carried with him when traveling.

Socks

A pair of blue worsted socks which were so badly destroyed by moths that they were burned.

Boots

Boots worn by Lincoln the night he was assassinated were left by the man in whose room the martyred president died in payment of a debt and never redeemed.

The Christian Advocate, Feb. 6, 1936

How Abraham Lincoln Looked

He was as unusual externally as he was remarkable mentally, but men who knew him were not concerned about his appearance

By Frank Farrington

NO ONE of America's great men has been described in more uncomplimentary terms by his political foes than Abraham Lincoln. And much might be said of the admissions his friends have made about his homeliness.

There was Lincoln's law partner, William Herndon, who idealized him in many ways, but Herndon was never blind to the commoner faults and the uncommon homeliness of the great man.

"Lincoln's walk was undulatory," said Herndon. "He moved cautiously but firmly, his long arms and giant hands hung down by his side. He walked with even tread, the inner sides of his feet being parallel. He put the whole foot flat on the ground at once, not rising from the toe, and hence he had no spring to his walk."

Carl Schurz, the German who came to America and became very prominent in our political affairs in Lincoln's day, described the latter as he saw him in 1858, during the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates. His voice was not musical, Schurz declared, but high-keyed and likely to turn into a shrill treble in moments of excitement. He thought it not actually disagreeable, but possessed of a far-reaching quality. It was always obvious that what he said was heard and understood at the farthest edges of his audience.

Lincoln's gestures Schurz called awkward. He swung his arms in an ungraceful manner, and he would bend down his long body and his knees and then, to feature a point, would straighten his knees and shoot his body up to his very tiptoes with amazing emphasis.

Schurz described Lincoln further as seen on a train going to Quincy, for the famous debate:

"There he stood, overtopping by several inches all those surrounding him. Though measuring something over six feet myself, I had, standing quite near him, to throw

According to Whitney, Lincoln was awkward in gait and actions. His skin was a dark sallow color; his features were coarse; his expression kind and amiable. His eyes were indicative of deep reflection and, at times, of deep sorrow as well. His head was high but not large. His forehead was broad at the base, but retreated. He wore a hat measuring $7\frac{1}{8}$ inches. His ears were large; his hair coarse, black and bushy, standing out all over his head. His chest was thin, his shoulders narrow. He walked with a stoop and when sitting appeared only average height.

"Who is that gawk?" asked a Springfield photographer who saw Lincoln in 1855 and described him thus: "A tall, lank, awkward man who wore a tall hat, a short raglan coat, short top boots, one trouser leg stuck in the top, walking with a stoop and carrying one hand behind him."

Others have said that Lincoln's neck was long and unusually accentuated by a low, loose collar and a carelessly-tied black stock. His hat had no nap. His boots were not commonly blackened, nor his clothes brushed. His trousers were habitually too short. The old gray shawl was sometimes alternated with a circular cloak of blue, bought when he was a member of Congress in 1849.

He often carried a dilapidated carpet bag to hold his legal papers as he journeyed from one courthouse to another. His faded green umbrella had lost its knob and was tied with a string about its middle. It had the name "A. Lincoln" in cut-out letters of white muslin attached to it.

All seem to agree that the shrill piping tones of his voice gave way, as his speeches advanced, to a pleasanter, more resonant tone, and whatever the tone, that this fac-

tor was forgotten in his words as he convinced his hearers.

ONE might think Lincoln almost grotesque, as pictured by those who saw only the peculiarities of his dress and figure. Descriptions of him quite naturally picked out the characteristics that seemed strange or freakish. It is easily forgotten that, in his day, people in the pioneer communities of the Middle West gave comparatively little attention to dress. Furthermore, the standards and the styles were utterly different from those we today contrast with them. The fashions of the turn of the century would seem almost as ludicrous.

Those portraits that show Abraham Lincoln at his best, such as the Brady photograph, taken when he was in New York in 1860 to speak at Cooper Union, show him dignified, serious, and almost handsome. Another portrait that pictures him effectively and satisfyingly is that of Hessler, made at Chicago in 1857.

Let no one think that Lincoln, to those who gained more than a hasty glance at him, presented anything but a good appearance. Many of the other prominent men of his time could be made to seem as unattractive as critical description has made Lincoln seem.

Granting that Lincoln's appearance was unusual; that a certain carelessness of dress, particularly prior to his presidency, showed a mind intent upon more important things; there is still no warrant to consider him freakish looking in any degree. His was a very striking appearance. He was as unusual externally as he was remarkable mentally, but men who knew him, whether friends or enemies, were not concerned about his appearance. They cared little that he looked different from other men, but they cared much that what he said and thought was different.

Delhi, N. Y.

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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

December 14, 1936

GIFTS FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Christmas season recalls some of the many gifts which Abraham Lincoln received as president-elect and chief executive of the nation. Soon after his election these favors began to arrive and they continued to be received at intervals throughout his administration. He is said to have remarked to his wife before they left Springfield for Washington, that regardless of what came out of his new office apparently they were going to get some new clothes.

Wearing apparel, however, represented but a very small part of the large number of gifts he received. Books and pictures were the most numerous expressions of appreciation and it seems as if he must have been on the mailing list for each new publication.

Overcoat

One of the earliest gifts of clothing he received was an overcoat from Isaac Fenno, to whom he wrote the following expression of thanks:

Isaac Fenno, Esq.
Dear Sir:

Your note of the 1st inst., together with a very substantial and handsome overcoat which accompanied it by Express, were duly received by me, and would both have been acknowledged sooner but for the multifarious demands upon my time and attention.

Permit me now to thank you sincerely for your elegant and valuable New Year's Gift, and the many kind expressions of personal confidence and regard contained in your letter.

Socks

Lincoln's relatives did not forget him as Christmas time approached and one of them, living in Indiana sent him a pair of socks. His acknowledgment of their receipt is written in the typical Lincoln style.

Executive Mansion, Washington, Dec. 4, 1861.
My Dear Madam:

I take great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of Nov. 26; and in thanking you for the present by which it was accompanied. A pair of socks so fine, and soft, and warm, could hardly have been manufactured in any other way than the old Kentucky fashion. Your letter informs me that your maiden name was Crume, and that you were raised in Washington County, Kentucky, by which I infer that an uncle of mine by marriage was a relative of yours. Nearly or quite sixty years ago, Ralph Crume married Mary Lincoln, a sister of my father, in Washington County, Kentucky.

Muffler

Lincoln always deeply appreciated gifts from children and seldom failed to acknowledge these favors at the earliest possible moment. Two small girls, Clara and Julia Brown, sent him a muffler, which possibly they had made with their own hands. Their pictures were also enclosed. Lincoln wrote to them this kind letter of appreciation.

Executive Mansion,
Washington, March 2, 1864.
Misses Clara & Julia Brown:

The Afgan you sent is received, and gratefully accepted. I especially like my little friends; and although

you have never seen me, I am glad you remember me for the country's sake, and even more, that you remember, and try to help the poor soldiers.

Autograph Document

A grand-niece of John Hancock, living in New York, presented Lincoln with a rare document dated in 1765, signed by Hancock and endorsed by an Abraham Lincoln, contemporary with Hancock. The document had something to do with the rebuilding of Faniel Hall and it was suggested to the president by the donor that the document might prove "a happy augury of the country's future history—'The cradle of Liberty', rebuilt by the joint efforts of John Hancock and Abraham Lincoln."

Lincoln wrote thanking Mrs. Colyer, the donor, for the interesting document and "the flattering sentiment with which it was accompanied."

Canes

It would be very difficult, indeed, to make a complete list of all the canes which Lincoln had presented to him. Most of them had some personal or historical significance. A formal presentation program accompanied the gift of one received just before going to Gettysburg. It had formerly belonged to Senator David Colbert Broderick of California. The report of Mr. Lincoln's reply to Senator Conness, who presented the cane, follows in full as it appears to be an unpublished speech of the president:

"The president then accepted the cane, and, with much emotion, replied that he never personally knew the Senator's friend, Mr. Broderick, but he had always heard him spoken of as one sincerely devoted to the cause of human rights. Testimony to this point of his character had been borne by those whom he had not intimately known, as also by those whom he was personally and intimately acquainted, and, with all of them, the testimony had been uniform. The memento which was presented him by Senator Conness was of that class of things, the highest honor that could be conferred upon him. If, in the position he had been placed, he had done anything that entitled him to the honor the Senator had assigned him, it was a proud reflection that his acts were of such a character as to merit the affiliation of the friends of a man like David C. Broderick. Whether remaining in this world or looking down upon the earth from the spirit land, to be remembered by such a man as David C. Broderick was a fact he would remember through all the years of his life. The proudest ambition that he could desire was to do something for the elevation of the condition of his fellow men. In conclusion, he returned his sincere thanks for the part the Senator bore in this presentation, and to the memory of his great friend."

Royal Gifts

Some gifts sent to the president through their very nature were received by him as expressions of good will to the nation and these were properly deposited in the national museum. Lincoln acknowledged from the King of Siam, "a sword of costly materials and exquisite workmanship," and also two huge elephant tusks. The King likewise offered the president a herd of live elephants but these Mr. Lincoln refused because he felt they could not be properly cared for in this climate. It is likely, however, that his son Tad would have looked upon the gift of a herd of elephants with the same favor as he did rabbits, goats, ponies and other specimens of live stock which found their way to the White House

BURKET & BURKET
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
FINDLAY, OHIO

HARLAN F. BURKET
JOHN F. BURKET
JACOB F. BURKET

April 15, 1938

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Director, Lincoln Nat'l Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Recently a friend of mine gave me a copy of the Marshall Herald of Marshall, Illinois, being the issue of March 11, 1938, which contained an article concerning Abraham Lincoln which was printed in that paper in 1888. The article is as follows:

" 1888 Fifty Years Ago "

A Marshall lady who lived in Springfield along in the '50's and early '60s, gave us a description the other day of Abraham Lincoln, just after he was nominated for president. She was at the home of an aunt, spending the day. While she was engaged in reading, her aunt, who was at the window, suddenly explained: "Come here and I'll show you our next president". She quickly ran to the window and, looking out, saw a very tall, slim and exceedingly awkward and angular man, dressed in a shabby suit of black, marching slowly up the street. His tall plug hat was set on the very back of his head, his hands were in his pockets, and under each arm he carried a huge cabbage. Trotting along behind him, with one hand tightly holding to his coat-tail and the other dragging a little wagon was a bright looking little boy. This was little Tod."

I am continually running into little items on Lincoln of a personal nature and I feel that it is proper they all should be preserved. I retained the original and am forwarding copy to you.

Cordially yours,

H. F. Burket

But that was 1943. Now it's up to *you* to help defeat fire this crucial year, 1944. For, while fire prevention is *always* important, it is *extra* important now, for conscientious fire prevention this year will help shorten the war. And there is this final reason to make fire prevention your concern—over a period of time the smaller the losses the less the property owner will pay for his insurance protection.

This year, let's not give aid and comfort to the enemy—

Let's be *extra* careful about fires!

★ THE HOME ★
Insurance Company
NEW YORK
FIRE • AUTOMOBILE • MARINE INSURANCE





Lincoln Lore

January, 1977

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation...Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor. Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

Number 1667

Abraham Lincoln and the Adams Family Myth

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Viewers of educational television's "Adams Chronicles" have been afforded a rare example of packing as much history into a popular dramatic series as the dramatic structure can bear. Short of having a man standing in front of a blackboard, the old "sunrise semester" format that educational television is trying to get away from, this may well be as much history as one can get from television. The medium makes severe demands on its message; of history, it demands narrative drive and dramatic impact. There is no latitude for a leisurely or painstaking discussion of the merits of various kinds of evidence; the show must go on.

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The great hope of the third Adams political generation thus encountered the new force in American politics, the man of the

people, the man of no breeding. The scene is set for the denouement of the Adams family story: unable or unwilling to play the game of politics by the new rules of mass democracy, the family will be spurned by the America it expects to serve. The logic of Henry Adams's disgust with "Grantism" in politics in the next generation flows naturally from this image; for the Lincolns and Grants of this political world there are no statesmen, only office-seekers.

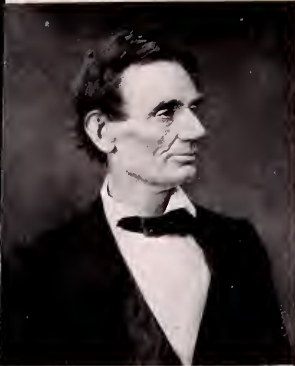
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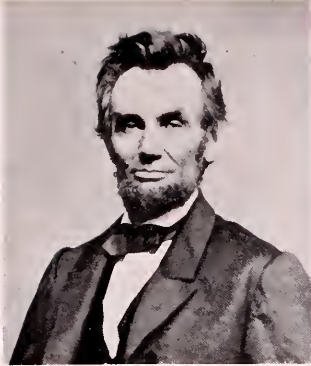


FIGURE 1. Charles Francis Adams (1807-1886), the son of John Quincy Adams, spent most of his childhood in Europe and attended English schools for two years. His greatest diplomatic triumph was his prevention of the sale of the Laird rams to the Confederacy.

New York, Nov. 3/44



Taken by Hessler, in 1860. In reply to his request that the future President should sit for his portrait in Chicago, Lincoln firmly but graciously invited Hessler to go to him in Springfield.



A completely revealing picture of the President taken during the war years. His love of humanity and feeling for his fellow-men are quite apparent in the kindly if somewhat weary expression.



The Tonsorial Ablutions of Honest Abe

N. P. Willis, publisher of the *Home Journal*, Washington correspondent and friend of Mrs. Lincoln, witnessed, by chance, President Lincoln's personal preparations for a state dinner in honor of Prince Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte in August, 1861. He was so much impressed by his glimpse of the "tonsorial ablutions of Honest Abe" that he published a detailed account. This quotation from Mr. Willis's story, which appeared in the *Home Journal* of August 17, 1861, has never been reprinted elsewhere:

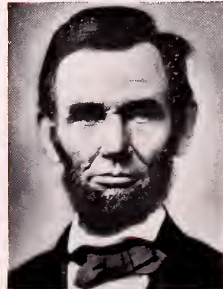
"... To complete this one day's record of high life at Washington, I must add still a trifle or two, of the kind that are spicy in history—in the first place, for instance, we having been so fortunate (the reader will be astonished to learn) as to see the whole operation! 'Honest Abe'—God bless him!—can afford to let posterity enjoy the story!

"The official dinner to the Prince was to come off at 7 P.M.; but that was not to interfere, fortunately, with the playing of the Marine Band, in the grounds of the White House. . . I chanced to be one of three who occupied, for the last half hour of the performance, a long settee, which stood opposite the Presidential mansion—not the least interesting operation, of the beautiful picture before us, being a chance view of *the President himself*, who sat at the window of his private room, on the second story, reading his letters and listening to the music, but evidently wholly unconscious of being visible to the public.

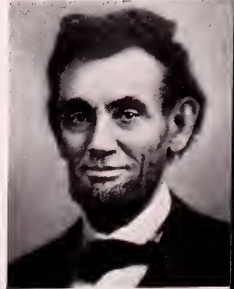
"Of course, neither our own party nor the rest of the gay crowd had the least expectation of seeing any portion of the royal entertainment that was to take place in the great White Mansion before us; but, as it approached within thirty minutes of the dinner hour, (which Mrs. Lincoln had chanced to mention to me, the night before) I could not help wondering, to the friend sitting at my side, whether 'Abe', lounging there in his gray coat, with his knees up to his chin, would have time enough for his toilet. But the words were scarce out of my mouth, when up jumped the lively successor of George Washington, and took a seat in another chair—the body-servant, who had entered the room, proceeding immediately to put the cloth around the respected throat and shave that portion of the honored face which had not 'taken the veil'. In three minutes more, said holder of the Executive by the nose shook his official napkin out of the window, giving to the summer wind, thus carelessly, whatever had fallen from the Inaugurated beard; and the remainder of the toilet was prompt enough! The long arms were busy about the tall head for a moment, probably with brush or comb—there was a stoop, probably for bi-forked disencumberment, and, immediately after, a sudden gleam of white linen lifted aloft—a momentary extension of elbows with the tying of the cravat, and a putting on of the black coat—and, then, the retiring figure of the dressed President was lost to our sight. The toilet of the sovereign of the great realm of the West—(which we had been thus privileged to see, through the open window of his dressing-room)—had occupied precisely twenty-two minutes, by my anxiously consulted watch."



The President reading to his beloved son, Tad. Lincoln was, perhaps, fonder of this son than of either Willie or Robert, probably due to the fact that Tad had an imperfection of speech and was slow to learn.



Full-face portrait which shows the slightly raised iris of the left eyeball.



This likeness is believed the last portrait before Lincoln's assassination.



Lincoln Lore

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FIGURE 2. William L. Dayton (1807-1864) was Lincoln's first choice for ambassador to England. He served as ambassador to France until his death in 1864.

gether shocked description of it, given contemporaneously to members of his family was far more graphic. He had been summoned to Washington by the secretary of state to receive his verbal instructions. The country was in the midst of the most dangerous crisis in its history; a crisis in which the action of foreign governments, especially of England, might well be decisive of results. The policy to be pursued was under consideration. It was a grave topic, worthy of thoughtful consideration. Deeply impressed with the responsibility devolved upon him, Mr. Adams went with the new secretary to the State Department, whence, at the suggestion of the latter, they presently walked over to the White House, and were ushered into the room which more than thirty years before Mr. Adams associated most closely with his father, and his father's trained bearing and methodical habits. Presently a door opened, and a tall, large-featured, shabbily dressed man, of uncouth appearance, slouched into the room. His much-kneed, ill-fitting trousers, coarse stockings, and worn slippers at once caught the eye. He seemed generally ill at ease, — in manner, constrained and shy. The secretary introduced the minister to the President, and the appointee of the last proceeded to make the usual conventional remarks, expressive of obligation, and his hope that the confidence implied in the appointment he had received might not prove to have been misplaced. They had all by this time taken chairs; and the tall man listened in silent abstraction. When Mr. Adams had finished, — and he did not take long, — the tall man remarked in an indifferent, careless way that the appointment in question had not been his, but was due to the secre-

tary of state, and that it was to "Governor Seward" rather than to himself that Mr. Adams should express any sense of obligation he might feel; then, stretching out his long legs before him, he said, with an air of great relief as he swung his long arms to his head: — "Well, governor, I've this morning decided that Chicago post-office appointment." Mr. Adams and the nation's foreign policy were dismissed together! Not another reference was made to them. Mr. Lincoln seemed to think that the occasion called for nothing further; as to Mr. Adams, it was a good while before he recovered from his dismay; — he never recovered from his astonishment, nor did the impression then made ever wholly fade from his mind.

Although there were some small differences in detail in the televised version, the "Chronicles" followed the account closely and rendered its spirit nicely enough.

The problem lies in the necessity of simplification for the sake of dramatic impact. Leaving aside the invitation in Charles, Junior's account to compare Charles, Senior's original diary entry with the family tradition, one can say that there are other published sources of information written by members of the Adams family which suggest that the nature of the meeting was somewhat different from the televised version. The most obvious of these lies in Henry Adams's famous autobiography, *The Education of Henry Adams*. Henry was the Ambassador's son too, and he accompanied his father to England as his private secretary. He points out that his father's principal aide, also a political appointee, was useless: "As Secretary of Legation the Executive appointed the editor of a Chicago newspaper who had applied for the Chicago Post-Office; a good fellow, universally known as Charley Wilson, who had not a thought of staying in the post, or of helping the Minister." Much of the succeeding episode in the "Chronicles" was based on *The Education*; yet there was no attempt to pursue this obvious lead. Clearly, the Chicago post office was not something that was totally unrelated to the Adams mission; an applicant for that office was being sent instead to England. Was Lincoln's mention of the Chicago post office a gratuitous slur on Mr. Adams's high office; was it the low preoccupation of a petty politician from the West?

The evidence in Charles Francis Adams's diary seems conclusive. This is the entry for March 28, 1861; Seward was discussing the state of affairs with the new administration after suggesting that they go to see the President without a scheduled appointment:

Not very encouraging I thought. He [Seward] spoke of the President kindly and as coming gradually right, whilst he exposed to me without comment or censure a picture of his own situation — much absorption in the details of office dispensation, but little application to great ideas. The Cabinet without unity, and without confidence in the head or in each other. I must say I can now foresee but one result. He spoke of my appointment as his victory, whilst he made a species of apology for the selection of Mr. Wilson which seemed to me a little lame. Failing to carry his nomination for the post office at Chicago, the President by way of compensation flung him the place of secretary of legation of which the man was innocent of all wish. Mr. Seward could raise no objection to his own friend. I replied that I had no objection to the choice, upon the assurance that he was unobjectionable, which he gave me. After breakfast he proposed to me to go the President's to acknowledge my appointment which I did. We found ourselves in the Cabinet with only Mr. Arnold, the member of the Chicago District of Illinois there. He was evidently grieving at the President's taking out of his hands the choice of the Postmaster of Chicago, and appointing a person he did not like. Soon the President came in. He shook hands with me and said something complimentary, I briefly thanked him for the honor conferred upon me, and expressed the hope not to discredit his selection. In the matter of that, said he, I have no great claim on you, for the selection was mainly Governor Seward's. I replied, admitting my consciousness of the fact, but that without his assent, the act could not have been done. The President then turned to the main idea and announced his decision in the Chicago case. He was about to go on to talk with Governor Seward on other topics without minding me, when the latter gave me a hint, and I respectfully took my leave. Such was his fashion of receiving and



FIGURE 3. The sons of Charles Francis Adams, Charles at top, Henry in the middle, and Brooks at the bottom.

dismissing the incumbent of one of the two highest posts in the foreign service of the country! I left the presence cheerfully enough, and congratulated myself that the task of being in his council had not been laid upon me.

Within the same rough parameters of truth, what a very different image of the meeting this entry presents!

The Chicago post office was not only germane to the conversation, Seward and Adams had themselves been discussing it just before going to meet the President. Lincoln, thinking always in terms of a very young party's unity, had wanted to give the ambassadorships of England and France to William L. Dayton and John C. Frémont, who had been the Republican nominees for Vice-President and President in 1856. Seward had preferred Adams for England, because Adams had been a major supporter of Seward's conservative policies in the secession crisis and, before that, of Seward's nomination for the Presidency in 1860. Moreover, he had no love for Frémont. Lincoln yielded, but when Seward sought to press Charles L. Wilson's appointment for Chicago, he ran afoul of Lincoln's strong obligation to John Locke Scripps, editor of the *Chicago Press and Tribune*, who had prepared a campaign biography of the President in the summer of 1860. Scripps got the Chicago post office, and Lincoln did his best to mollify Seward by giving Wilson the secretaryship in the English legation. Thus the Chicago post office was a subject of interest to Seward, Lincoln, and Adams. In fact, since Isaac Arnold of Chicago was also present, it was about the only interest that everyone present had in common.

For Adams, the nature of the conversation was insulting enough anyhow. Surely a mitigating circumstance, however, was the fact that their meeting was not a formal one — that Seward and Adams came unannounced. Moreover, Arnold was already waiting to see the President when they came in, and, if his presence had already been announced, it was no wonder the Chicago post office was the first subject which came to mind after he had "said something complimentary" to the distinguished representative of the Adams dynasty.

Why, over the years, did the Adams family's version of the story change? Why did Isaac Arnold disappear from the scene altogether, so that the men-

tion of the post office became a gross equation of the highest diplomatic post with a miserable and petty patronage plum? The answer lies in the interests and needs of the storytellers, and a clue lies ready at hand, again, in the famous *Education of Henry Adams*. Describing his feeling of "ridiculous" inadequacy to be the private secretary to his father in London, Adams could recall that he was comforted only by the knowledge that he "was not a vulture of carrion — patronage."

The Adams family had a long tradition of political aloofness, despite their ability to play the game with skill. In the Presidency of John Adams, the Sedition Act squinted towards the elimination of any legitimate party opposition. Yet Adams himself came nearer than many of his Federalist cohorts to accepting party as a necessary evil, and his rival Jefferson was almost as willing to see critical newspapers prosecuted by government (as long as it was a state and not the federal government) as Adams was. The spirit of the times in the early republic was hostile to political party.

John Quincy Adams began as a moderate Federalist too and did those things that a politician had to do to remain in the good graces of the democratic masses. As a National Republican, he gained the Presidency in 1824 by what his critics called a "corrupt bargain" with Henry Clay — a union, it was said, of the Puritan and the Blackleg, Blifil and Black George. As President, however, he refused to turn out officeholders who were working against his reelection, and he lost in 1828 in part because of reluctance to bargain with the Anti-Masons.

Charles Francis Adams lost the chance he had for the Liberal Republican

nomination in 1872 by writing a frosty letter claiming that he did not want the nomination, that he would not negotiate for it or give any assurances to anybody, and that he would accept only an "unequivocal call." One of the major planks of the Liberal Republican platform was civil service reform, and increasingly the Adams family showed interest in reforms which would get good men rather than party hacks into office. The reform served an urgent family need — some would say almost a psychological need — among Charles Francis Adams's children.

As the prospects that Henry, Brooks, John Quincy, 2d, or Charles Francis, Junior, would reach the station attained by their grandfather dimmed, the feeling that political parties were corrupt engines for driving mediocrities



and demagogues to office sharpened. Henry learned early that "Truth in politics might be ignored as a delusion." The political process seemed to favor "men whose energies were the greater, the less they wasted on thought; men who sprang from the soil to power; . . . more or less dull in outward appearance." The political unrest of the 1890s made him think "it probably his last chance of standing up for his eighteenth-century principles, strict construction, limited powers, George Washington, John Adams, and the rest." The giants of the era of the Founding Fathers were still available, but America did not call them.

By the 1890s, Henry's brother Charles was, in the words of his biographer, a "patrician at bay." In 1896, he wrote a friend about politics, "I can influence no one. Everyone I could possibly influence . . . thinks as I do, while those who think otherwise regard me as belonging essentially to the 'classes,' and as, therefore, not even entitled to a hearing, much less to any degree of confidence, on the part of what they are pleased to call the 'masses.'" He was at work on the biography of his father at this very time; the volume was shaped by these feelings. The equation of the Court of Saint James with the Chicago post office was all he could see in this father's diary account. It exemplified the forces that made the Adams family feel irrelevant. Isaac Arnold then vanished from the Cabinet room, never to return. Martin Duberman's 1961 biography of Charles Francis Adams repeats the story as Charles, Junior, told it.

Charles Francis Adams took his revenge on Lincoln. In 1873, he delivered a eulogy on William H. Seward before the New York legislature. Adams was still "Seward's man," in a sense, and he still tended to view Lincoln as he had appeared to Seward in the midst of the secession crisis. After that, Adams had left for Europe, not to return until after Lincoln's death; his sparser contact with domestic events in America failed to keep him in touch with Seward's changing viewpoint. Moreover, the inadequacy of his awkward meeting with Lincoln still rankled him.

After a statement that Lincoln "afterward proved himself before the world a pure, brave, honest man, faithful to his arduous task, and laying down his life at the last as a penalty for his country's safety," Adams devoted himself to "strict justice in discriminating between persons." He affirmed "without hesitation that, in the history of our Government down to this hour, no experiment so rash has ever been made as that of elevating to the head of affairs a man with so little previous preparation for his task as Mr. Lincoln." Of foreign affairs "he knew absolutely nothing," and "he was quite deficient in his acquaintance with the character and qualities of public men, or their aptitude for the positions to which he assigned them. Indeed, he never selected them solely by that standard." In fact, Lincoln largely ignored experience and technical qualifications: "It was either partisan service, or geographical position, or the length of the lists of names to commendatory papers, or the size of the salary, or the unblushing pertinacity of personal solicitation, that wrung from him many of his appointments." Seward was Lincoln's superior "in native intellectual power, in extent of acquirement, in breadth of philosophical experience, and in the force of moral discipline." Nevertheless, "Mr. Seward voluntarily dismissed forever the noblest dreams of an ambition" for the Presidency which "he had the clearest right to indulge, in exchange for a more solid power to direct affairs for the benefit of the nation, through the name of another, who should yet appear in all later time to reap the honors due chiefly to his labors."

The notion that Seward was the power behind the throne was not new. John Wilkes Booth, for one, held that theory and therefore included Seward as a victim in his grisly assassination plot. To have that theory come from a source as highly placed as Adams had been, however, was a matter of great significance. Immediately, the surviving members of Lincoln's Cabinet initiated a correspondence among themselves discussing "a general statement correcting the misrepresentations semi-officially put forth at Albany." Salmon Chase, Montgomery Blair, and Gideon Welles thought about making such a statement. Chase, however, died just a month after Adams's address, and Welles felt that the passing of the members of the Cabinet suggested the urgency of a fuller statement of the opposite view while it was still possible to obtain it from eyewitnesses. Late in 1873, Welles published three arti-

cles in answer to the address and published a fuller version in a book, *Lincoln and Seward*, in 1874.

These were the first big volleys in the long war over Lincoln's reputation. The terms of the debate quickly left the era of civil service reform behind, and there was never any great reason to investigate the roots of Adams's dislike. Chroniclers of the Adams family perpetuated the story of the meeting as "Lincolniana" became a field unto itself. The paths of these two great American names hardly ever crossed again.

Still, one need not be acquainted with the *arcana* of the Lincoln field in order to be able to describe the meeting between Adams and Lincoln in a different light. Henry Adams's autobiography contains the clue to the relevance of the Chicago post office. Charles's biography of his father all but invites comparison with the original diary entry. And the "Adams Chronicles" had access to the cooperation of the publishers of the Adams papers, available on microfilm to everyone.

The problem was not lack of zeal for research, necessarily, nor was it protectiveness of the Adams family name. The problem was the medium. Television demands drama, brief situations in which both action and dialogue tell a story of interest. Drama does not lend itself well to explaining the intricacies of patronage policy. In an hour on the subject of the Adams mission to London, television cannot explain that two Chicago newspapers editors vied for the same patronage plum, that one was championed by Seward and the other by Lincoln, that such patronage was customarily the preserve of the local Congressman who had become irate that the choice was removed from his hands, that Seward's influence on Lincoln was rising but had been exhausted by getting Adams rather than Dayton the appointment to England, that Lincoln tried even so to please Seward by giving his man in Chicago a job in England, that this man was inadequate to the task but that Seward could not tell the President so because the appointee was Seward's man, and that therefore the Chicago post office had a vital connection to the Court of Saint James. This is a subject for a book or, perhaps, a lecture; it is not the stuff of television drama. But it is history.

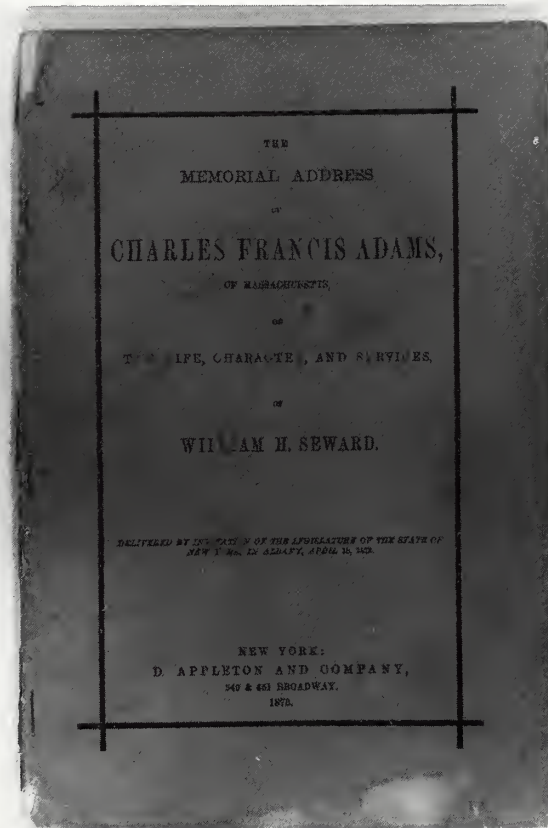


FIGURE 4. Pamphlet version of C. F. Adams's eulogy on Seward.

Oct.2,1981.

Page 6B THE-TAMPA TRIBUNE, Tuesday Sept.8,1981

Change At Brooks Brothers? It's Unlikely (Heading)

NEW YORK (AP) - Brooks Brothers, that cradle-to-grave outfitter of preppy America, is being buttoned-down about any change its new owner will bring to the nation's oldest clothing company.

The directors of Garfinckel, Brooks Brothers, Miller & Rhoads Inc. announced plans last week to accept a \$53 per share offer by Allied Stores, Inc. Brooks Brothers' Golden Fleece insignia is part of the deal.

But at the Madison Avenue emporium and Brooks Brothers' executive suite--both, as always, teeming with three-piece pinstripe suits, button-down shirts and striped ties--the change in ownership produced few ripples and little comment.

"I can't say anything about that," said Robert Dawson, vice president of sales promotion (dressed, of course, in a white button-down shirt, etc.)

Change at Brooks Brothers, you see, is as unfamiliar as blue jeans. Brooks Brothers proffers neither.

For 163 years, Brooks Brothers has eschewed "fashion," Dawson said. Vogue magazine once put it another way: "Setting trends by ignoring them". And Dawson puts it this way: "The great strength of Brooks Brothers has been its relative unchangeability."

In fashion, bright colors and patterns come and go. So do suit lapels that threaten to touch the shoulder and ties that shrink to strings. At Brooks Brothers, such change for change's sake doesn't get through the front door, past the striped ties, green and yellow sweaters and narrow lapels that could have

been there last year--and the last 50 years.

Brooks Brothers likes things the way they were, are now and will forever continue to be--classic.

Salesman Joseph Mancini, whose customers over the past 55 years have included Clark Gable and Jimmy Stewart (who wears a 38 extra long), isn't worried.

"Brooks Brothers change? Nah. If it does change, they (Allied) are going to lose out," said Mancini, a white-haired 69-year-old (dressed in a paisley bow tie, three-button pin-striped suit and, of course a button-down white shirt).

To Brooks Brothers believers, Brooks Brothers is a religion. And to the company's publicity department, it's a two-page listing of tid-bits including:

- Abe Lincoln was wearing a Brooks Brothers natural-shoulder frock coat when he was assassinated.
- Author John O'Hara always dressed heroes at Brooks Brothers; the bad guys buried under padded shoulders and flared lapels.
- Shoppers have included Fred Astaire, Andy Warhol.

A young boy's introduction to the Brooks Brothers label often is a family rite.

On Park Avenue one day, a reporter overheard a white-haired well dressed man talk proudly about his first grandson.

"Can't wait to get him into Brooks Brothers" he said.

"Why haven't you?" a friend asked.

"I will, I will," he responded, "just as soon as he stops wätting his pants."

FIGURED Waist Coat

"

St Jovinus told me that when he was doing
the Lincoln Park Stevedoring figures (the best ever) he
found that Lincoln was the first man in
Springfield to sport a figured satin waistcoat."

Charles Wood,

The little of Lincoln 1880
1880



July, 51 1863
"Yellow Cinnamomum Cassing young and subterminal
stipules"

Memor. of Robert Smellie

p 228

Reliance Life Insurance Company
of Pittsburgh.

New Suit

Lincoln "Always wanted to wear a
new suit out in a rain storm first."
Mrs. Lincoln. "By a fine day ^{she} ^{hers} went first."

Mrs. Esiger

my head backward to look into his eyes. He wore a somewhat battered stovepipe hat. His neck emerged long and skinny from a white collar turned down over a thin black necktie. His lank, ungainly body was clad in a rusty black dressecoat with sleeves that should have been longer, but his arms appeared so long that a store coat could scarcely be expected to come to his wrists. His black trousers, too, permitted a very full view of his large feet.

"On his left arm he carried a gray woolen shawl which evidently served him as an overcoat in chilly weather. His left hand held a cotton umbrella of the bulging kind, and also a black satchel that bore the marks of long and hard usage. His right hand he kept free for handshaking."

HENRY C. WHITNEY tells how Lincoln looked when Whitney, then twenty-one years old, came to Urbana, in 1854, and opened a law office. His practice brought him into frequent contact with the future President.

Lincoln, the Changeless



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(Suggested by St. Gaudens' statue in Grant Park, Chicago)

By R. JAY WILSON

Strong as the granite of our unbending hills,
Yet kind as meadows smiling in the sun;
Changeless, timeless, and supreme he stands.
The fate of peoples yet unborn within those hands
Tenderly he holds; and with his gaze
Penetrates the mist of new and perfect days
Still hidden by unchanging time, whose restless feet
The streets of far-off golden cities beat.
Unchanging Time—that cannot be—
The future stands new made by such as he.
Chatfield, Minn.

Front Views

By KAY

History Notes

Abraham Lincoln — whose sartorially rumpled appearance is an American legend — often was a customer of the fashionable Brooks Brothers after he reached his prosperous years, we are told by Ralph Newman, noted Lincoln scholar and historian. Lincoln's first marked improvement in dress was observed — wouldn't you know? — after his marriage to Mary Todd in 1842. And during the Lincoln-Douglas debates, it was noted that Lincoln's clothes were of better quality than those of Stephen A. Douglas. At least one of Lincoln's stovepipe hats was a Knox, presented to him by Knox Brothers when he went to New York in February of 1860 to make his Cooper Union address.

But neither Brooks Brothers nor Mary Todd nor Knox could stop him from crumpling and rumpling what he wore.

